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To: ymp_sr@ymp.gov
cc:

Subject: Yucca Mountain Concerns

Part of Records Package / Supplement / Correction

Living here in southern Nevada I cannot help but be concerned about the government plan to store nuclear waste generated at plants around the country in our backyard. There are a number of issues involved here, both ethical and statistical.

From an ethical standpoint there is much that can be said about utilities that use nuclear power being responsible for their own garbage. We did not create the waste that we are being asked to accept at a site less than 100 miles from this growing metropolitan area. When Yucca Mountain was first conceived of as the repository of spent nuclear fuel the greater Las Vegas community was considerably smaller than it is now. After all, since the desert holds the Nevada Test Site, and since we, the residents of Nevada put up with atomic bombs blowing up in our backyard, why should we care that nuclear waste, no matter how safe, is going to be stored in Yucca Mountain?

To be honest I don't care so much about the storage, nor do I really think that in the long run it will effect our water supply. I do worry about transporting it to the site, and the likelihood of an accident in transit. An accident can happen anywhere along the route. A statistical analysis of trucking and train accidents tells us that an accident will happen sometime while transporting the spent fuel, the waste, from the current storage site, to Nevada. Since the route to Yucca Mountain goes through this Valley, my home, this concerns me. However it concerns me even if it is not my home.

The problem of nuclear waste becomes more apparent following the events of September 11th. We have a tremendous, vulnerable, potential target for terrorism. Transporting the waste is the point at which it is most vulnerable to misguided actions of those who wish us harm.

I urge you to look outside the box that tells you we must store this waste in a single location. I urge you not to transport this waste across the country. A disaster will come of this, the only question is when.

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